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# Newsletter

## Number 03

16 February 2018



Website [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

Phone (09) 433 5823 Email – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

### Thanks

...to those amazing parents who spared an hour this week to assist with the headlice inspection.

... to the equally amazing group of parents who helped out with the timing of this week's swimming trials.

### People of the week

... the Matarau School senior basketball team who have been acknowledged this week for their exceptional sportsmanship on and off the court ... great teamwork, respectful toward coaches and umpires etc. A great start to the season. Well done!

... Riley T, 1<sup>st</sup> in Leading, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Dairy Type for his Calf at the Arapohue Show at the weekend. Well done Riley.

### Term calendar ... More to follow as dates come to hand!

19 / 20 Feb	Parent Interviews
21 Feb	ESOL Marae Visit
22 Feb	Camp Meeting 7pm, Y5 & 6 parents
27 Feb	Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School
1 / 2 March	Kio Rahi (more to follow)
6 - 9 March	Year 5 and 6 camp
12 March	School Swimming Sports (years 4 to 8)
14 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
15 March	School Swimming Sports (years 1 to 3)
19 March	Junior Marine Trip 1
20 March	School Duathlon - Teams Event
21 March	School Duathlon - Individual Event
26 March	Junior Marine Trip 2
27 March	ESOL Trip (more to follow)
9 April	Visiting Drama Group
11 April	Northland Swim Champs
13 April	Final day of term 1 (30 April first day of term 2)

### Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

The above are scheduled for 19 & 20 February - the **online bookings screen is still open**. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit.

Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

To book your interview time please book online via the following website - [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and enter the event code of **aqmgx**

**Early Buses** - buses will run 30-40 minutes early on 19 & 20 February because of parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30pm please on these days.

**In last week's newsletter (available via our website - newsletter tab, or from the office on request)**

Homework	School Gates	Cellphones	Sunhats	Pool Keys
Scholastic Bookclub	Cohort Entry	Cambridge Prog.	Optimal Conditions for Learning	

**Interviews ... parents can help by ..**

.. noting down any questions beforehand and bringing these with you  
.. arriving on time and departing on the bell (teachers want to seem rude but, for everyone's sake we ALL need to keep to time).

.. making a follow-up appointment to discuss issues which may take more time

*Parents, please note that, as part of their professional development, teachers are asked to sit in on an interview in another room. These interviews are randomly selected and the purpose is for teachers to glean ideas on interview process, and provide constructive feedback to each other. Thank you for accommodating this, our goal is simply to get better at what we do by learning from each other.*

**Request for Parent Helpers**

If you have a few hours each week to work in a classroom, the library, at PMP, the office, etc, please connect with your child's teacher or the school office and we will match you to a task of your choice. Parent help at school makes a huge difference to staff workloads, freeing staff to work with children, and contributes to the smooth operation of the school. We know you are busy, but would be hugely grateful for any time you are able to give.

**Senior Study Hour (Years 7 & 8)**

There are a number of benefits to your children continuing their year 7 and 8 education at Matarau School (enumerated on our website), but one of these is Senior Study Hour. This is an opportunity for your child to have supervised time to complete, or continue, work related to their regular class programme. They do not usually receive new work here, it is a chance to consolidate what they are learning, as well as to practise in areas of weakness, to close any gaps, to ask questions, to work in a smaller group, and maybe to get some targeted support. They may also get the opportunity to take some concepts a little further, or to complete homework with a teacher on hand if they are having difficulty. There is no cost to parents of children involved in Senior Study Hour. **Senior Study Hour operates 3:00 to 4:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.** Children may attend anywhere from 1 to 3 of these weekly sessions. If you would like to register your child please do so by contacting Mrs Donaldson on [kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz](mailto:kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz).

**Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School - 27 February**

Consents for this event (years 4 to 8) were sent home today. Please return consents this coming Tuesday so that we can confirm entries and bus transport asap. **Please note that students have been selected on the basis of times achieved in qualifying heats here at school. Kokopu School have restricted entries to two length races in order to cope with the numbers of swimmers.** Any questions to Mr Schsuter please.

Parents are asked to ensure please that children bring their lunches, plenty to drink, sunhats (and sun safe clothing), sunblock, something warm to wear between races, and spending money at your discretion. Please ensure that children who travel by bus also return to school by bus - unless otherwise arranged with the attending teachers. If weather is doubtful on the morning please check our phone bulletin board for updates. (Children who qualify at the zone event will be invited to participate in the Interschool Swimming Championships - more to follow on this).

**School Swimming Sports**

Our school swimming sports are scheduled for

*Senior (Y4-8s) Swimming Sports ... 12 March starting at approx. 10.30 finishing at 3pm*

*Junior (Y1-3s) Swimming Sports ... 15 March ... starting approx. 1.30pm, finishing at 3pm*

All parents, grandparents & whanau most welcome to come & support the children. More info to follow.

**Lunches**

Our students bring some amazing (and very healthy) lunches to school. As you know we do supervise them to make sure they eat a good portion of what you have sent along. Having said this, we do not require children to finish every item in their lunchbox. If you have checked their lunchbox and would like them to eat a little more, just let us know and we will do our best. We try to ensure that packaged treats are left until last but this can be a bit of a mission sometimes.

### **International Schools English and Maths Competitions**

Consent forms for the above competitions will be sent out shortly. Please give careful thought regarding your child's participation this year. The competition is open to all comers but there is little point in participating if children are unlikely to complete a MINIMUM of 5 practice tests in the period building up to the test. In recent years a significant number of children did few or no practice tests, in spite of being issued with these at school and results reflected this. So .. we are keen to see as many children as possible on-board for these - but only if there is a commitment to do the practice tests.

### **Learning Support Programmes**

If your child has been selected for placement in a Learning Support Programme with Mrs Williams or with a support staff member, please ensure that their consent form has been signed and returned to school. These programmes anticipate a high level of support given at home. They are expensive to run, and of short duration, and so please support with assigned homework (which will be regular) and by talking with your child about what they have been learning. Relevant staff members will be more than happy to answer questions at any time and are happy to have parents sit in on sessions.

### **Homework**

Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason, or if they wish their child excused from home learning altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing home learning. **If you do NOT want your child to receive home learning, please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board, please set a regular time and place, and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way.

### **Senior School T-Shirts (Year 7s)**

Orders for these Shirts will be placed with the supplier early next week. Mrs Sinclair will check sizes for each child before ordering.

### **School Sponsors sought for 2018**

Interested parties are invited to express an interest in becoming a school sponsor. Our sponsors provide an important link between the school and its community. While grateful for the financial contributions of sponsors, our desire to foster an on-going and mutually beneficial relationship between the school and your business is our paramount consideration.

Where relevant, a sponsor will be given the opportunity to quote on school work through the Ministry of Education. This is just one of the benefits of being a sponsor.

If you are interested in becoming a school sponsor, please contact the school office and ask for Brenda.

### **Term Headlice Inspection**

This week's inspection indicated relatively low levels of infestation. Parents advised of infestation, or suspected infestation, are asked to treat their children's hair urgently please, and to monitor closely over coming weeks for signs of re-infestation. Our desire is to keep infestation levels as low as possible for the rest of this term (before re-checking early next term). A co-ordinated effort reduces overall use of chemical treatments and this is an added benefit for families.

Please advise if we can help or if you would like the advice of the public health nurse.

### **Y7 & Y8 Immunisation Talk - 2.15pm 21/2/17**

The Public Health Nurse will do a short education session on the immunisations that are available for our year 7 and 8 students (boostrix and HPV), on Wednesday 21 February at 2.15pm. Please let Helen in the office know if you will be attending.

### **Loose Parts Play in room 1**

Can you donate any of the following items, buttons, bottle tops, off cuts of wood, nuts, bolts, old pool noodles... anything the children can explore their imagination with? If so, please drop to Room 1 or the office

### **Materials for Discovery Time**

If you have surplus fabrics, ribbon, netting, tulle, or anything suitable for wearable arts please drop these to Room 3. Any donations appreciated.

### Junior Trip to Reotahi

The junior school (rooms 1-5) will be participating in a programme called Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) run by the Mountains to Sea conservation trust. You can visit their website [www.emr.org.nz](http://www.emr.org.nz) Some important dates to consider are

*Introductory pool snorkel session at school -*

Monday 19th Feb Rooms 5 & 3

Monday 26th Feb Rooms 1, 2 & 4

Please ensure children have their togs and have sunblock on as each session will be 1.5 hours.

*Marine reserve snorkel at Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserve (Reotahi)*

Monday 19th March (Rooms 3 & 4)

Monday 26th March (Rooms 1, 2, 5)

We will need a lot of parent help on this day for the water based activities, so please reserve this date if at all possible. Further information will be sent home shortly.

### Year 5 and 6 Camp - 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> March 2018

We are happy to make accommodations for time payment of camp fees (\$160) ... just see Kevin. *There is a camp meeting for all parents attending camp, all parents are welcome - 7pm Thursday 22 February* in the School Staffroom. Any general questions in the run up to camp to Mr Schuster please - [sschuster@matarau.school.nz](mailto:sschuster@matarau.school.nz).

### After School Care

Is now up & running in the School Hall each afternoon after school. If you would use the After School Care programme, it starts at 3:00 - 5:45pm, with homework support, afternoon tea, arts and crafts etc. Cost \$6 per child per hour. Contact Kim on 021 066 3806.

### Finally

In an earlier newsletter we advised that you would get an opportunity to hear more about our intended direction for the school in 2018. At 3:15 pm Thursday 1 March, in the school library, senior staff will be available to meet with parents interested in knowing a little more.

This will be an informal chat with plenty of opportunities for interaction and questions. We will touch on multiple intelligences, the new digital technologies curriculum, new models for integrating the curriculum, Cambridge developments, our virtues focus and more. If you think you will be there, please give Helen a call. If you cannot make this meeting any staff member would be more than happy to bring you up to speed, and Kevin is available by appointment for a more lengthy discussion. Hopefully we get the chance to connect soon.

Regards  
Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL

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## School Lunches

**Mondays** - \$3.00 : Baked Beans or Spaghetti served with toast & a juice, or Chicken or Beef Cup of Noodles & a juice. Order at the office by morning tea on Monday.

**Wednesdays** - \$1.50 : for Sausage (meat or vegetarian option) in bread with sauce. Order on Wednesday mornings through the classroom teacher.

**Fridays** - \$4.00 - Hot Mince Pie, Mince & Cheese Pie, Sausage Roll (with Museli Bar) or a Butter Chicken Wrap and a Fruit Drink. You can swap the Fruit drink for a Flavoured Milk for \$5.00.

**PLUS NEW** - \$4.50 - Ham or Chicken Salad Wrap or Salad Wrap with a juice  
\$2.50 - Cup of Chilled Watermelon or Pineapple.

Order by Wednesday at the office, to receive Friday.